AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS/Patients' Bill of Rights (Democrat Version)

SUBJECT: Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2000 . . . S. 1233. Lott motion to table the Dorgan (for Daschle) amendment No. 702.

ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 53-47

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 1233, the Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2000, will provide \$60.710 billion in new budget authority (of which \$13.98 billion will be discretionary budget authority, which is the amount provided in fiscal year 1999) for fiscal year 2000. Loan authorizations will total \$9.650 billion.

The Dorgan (for Daschle) amendment would enact a "Patients Bill of Rights": that would regulate the structure and operation of all health insurance products at the Federal level; that would impose costly mandates on consumers, health insurers, and employers; that would enable new lawsuits against employers and insurers for unlimited compensatory and punitive damages; that would result in an estimated 1.9 million Americans losing health insurance coverage; and that would increase private health insurance premiums by an average of 6.1 percent (which would be on top of inflation increases and other expected increases).

Debate was limited by unanimous consent. After debate, Senator Lott moved to table the amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

NOTE: The Daschle amendment was debated concurrently with a Lott amendment to enact a Patients Bill of Rights: that would make health insurance more affordable by accelerating full tax deductibility of health premiums for the self-employed and by expanding the medical savings account (MSA) pilot program to give all Americans access to MSAs; that would improve regulation of those health plans that the States cannot regulate; that would prevent genetic discrimination; and that would provide for a swift and independent external appeals process for contesting health plan decisions. Immediately prior to the rejection of the Daschle amendment, the Senate voted against tabling the Lott amendment (see vote No. 181). The Lott amendment automatically fell when the Daschle amendment was tabled.

For debate, see vote No. 181.

YEAS (53)			NAYS (47)			NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans Democrats (53 or 96%) (0 or 0%)		Republicans	Der	Democrats		Democrats	
		(2 or 4%)	(45 or 100%)		(0)	(0)	
Abraham Allard Ashcroft Bennett Bond Brownback Bunning Burns Campbell Chafee Cochran Collins Coverdell Craig Crapo DeWine Domenici Enzi Frist Gorton Gramm Gramm Grams Grassley Gregg Hagel Hatch Helms	Hutchinson Hutchison Inhofe Jeffords Kyl Lott Lugar Mack McCain McConnell Murkowski Nickles Roberts Roth Santorum Sessions Shelby Smith, Bob Smith, Gordon Snowe Stevens Thomas Thompson Thurmond Voinovich Warner		Fitzgerald Specter	Akaka Baucus Bayh Biden Bingaman Boxer Breaux Bryan Byrd Cleland Conrad Daschle Dodd Dorgan Durbin Edwards Feingold Feinstein Graham Harkin Hollings Inouye Johnson	Kennedy Kerrey Kerry Kohl Landrieu Lautenberg Leahy Levin Lieberman Lincoln Mikulski Moynihan Murray Reed Reid Robb Rockefeller Sarbanes Schumer Torricelli Wellstone Wyden	EXPLANAT 1—Official F 2—Necessari 3—Illness 4—Other SYMBOLS: AY—Annour AN—Annour PY—Paired I	ly Absent nced Yea nced Nay Yea